



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The mouse was of the species, called by the Count de Buffon, the *long tailed field mouse*, or with us, from its shape, colour and activity, the *deer mouse*.

There was no appearance that the ground ever had been broken up, nor was there any communication from this substance with the external air, or surrounding earth. In short, we saw no reason to doubt that the mouse had been immured for a century.

DAVID ANDREWS.

*Signed in presence of* }  
OLIVER FISKE. }

*Worcester, March 3d, 1803.*

---

*Account of an Inscribed Rock, at Dighton, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, accompanied with a copy of the Inscription.*  
By JAMES WINTHROP, Esq.

IN Taunton river, about six miles below the town of Taunton, and within the limits of Dighton, is a rock containing an hieroglyphical inscription, which has long engaged the attention of the curious. The rock is on the eastern side of the river, upon the beach, and the inscribed side fronts about northwesterly. At the lowest tides the water retires from the foot of it, but at high water it is commonly covered. The longest side contains the inscription, and looks toward the channel of the river, and is the natural face of the rock, not smoothed

smoothed by art. It is on this side ten feet six inches long, and four feet two inches wide. The height is not so great, for the plane declines about thirty degrees from the perpendicular, so that the top of the rock is about two feet from a person standing by the base of the inscribed side. The other sides are shorter, and drawn to a point toward the shore, and are rough, as if large pieces had been broken off. The rock is of a dull reddish colour, which is common with the stones in that neighbourhood. Tradition informs us, that in the last century it stood as much as four rods from the river, but the inhabitants by digging round it, upon the foolish expectation of finding money, gave a passage to the tide.

It is agreed, on all hands, that the inscription is hieroglyphical; but for want of a perfect copy of it no satisfactory explanation has been given. A very imperfect copy was published early in this century in the philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London. About twenty years ago a much more complete one was taken by the learned Professor Sewall, and is deposited in the Museum of the University in Cambridge. The lower part of the rock has been for a long time coated with moss and dirt, which concealed a considerable part of the inscription, and the shortness of the time, which the tide leaves it, makes it impossible, in the common method of copying, to be perfectly exact. This will abundantly account for any deficiency or imperfection in the copy taken by Professor Sewall, whose habitual accuracy and attention are well known.

In

In the course of last August, upon the invitation of Judge Baylies, of Dighton, I went to view the rock, and take a copy of it. We were assisted by Rev. Mr. West, and Col. Edward Pope, both of New Bedford, and Rev. Mr. Smith, of Dighton. We spent one day in cleaning the face of the rock, tracing the character, and painting it black, beginning to work when the tide had fallen, so as not to be above our knees, and finished this operation when the water was about as deep, upon the flood. The next day, which was the fourteenth of August, the same company went to the rock, provided with a large sheet of paper, of the whole size of the inscription, and after retracing the character with paint, to cure any viscosity which the first paint might have contracted from the extreme heat of the weather, we applied the paper to the face of the rock, two of us managing the ends of the sheet, and the remainder, with towels, which we dipt into the river, pressing the paper upon the rock. This made the paper conform to the surface, and the paint presently began to appear through it. As soon as the paper was dry enough to be removed, we laid it upon the shore and completed the character with ink. Afterward I brought it home, and hanging it up to the light, traced the inscription with ink upon the other side of the paper, it having been reversed by the manner of copying from the rock. Having thus completed the copy, I had a large pentagraph made, which would expand thirteen feet, and by this means  
have



*Inscription on*



scription on a rock in Taunton riv



Taunton river.





have made a fair draft, which I request the Academy to accept.\*

The inscription comes within eight inches of the bottom of the rock, and runs off at the top and ends, which makes it highly probable, that it has suffered considerably since it was first wrought. The character is generally about half an inch wide and very shallow, appearing as if it were made by some pointed instrument. In the copy I have marked it by parallel lines, and their distance shows the width of it upon the rock. The single circles represent dots, and where there are two concentric circles, they represent a ring or circle in the original work.

I have been more particular in describing the process of taking the copy, because I believe it to be the first time in which it has been adopted, and appears in practice to be simple and exact.

*Cambridge, Nov. 10, 1788.*

MEDICAL

\* Plate III, exhibits a reduced representation of Mr. Winthrop's original draft; accurately traced under his inspection.